

July 28, 2010

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittee on Social Security:

I am a 75 year old woman, Civil Service retiree, married for 53 years. I am currently taking care of my husband who has Alzheimer's disease, and he requires round- the- clock care. I stayed home for 12 years and took care of my husband and 4 children, who have become good, law-abiding citizens. I have done everything a wife and mother is supposed to do, and yet, I am not entitled to my husband's Social Security because I have a government pension. If something happens to my husband, and I lose his Social Security, my income will be at poverty level.

I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484) which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. The passage of H.R. 235 would allow me to collect my husband's Social Security for which it was intended.

A married individual, who never worked a day in his or her life, is entitled to collect the spouse's Social Security - but, I can't! I have my own 40 quarters, but because I have a small government pension, I only receive 40% of my own Social Security. How can this be? Where is the other 60% going? I was mentioned in the 110th Congressional Hearing, chaired by Senator Kerry, as a woman who is severely affected by the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall Social Security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package - please!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Jean L. Rapose